

We Claim:

Sub 1  
1. A method for diagnosing glaucoma which comprises detecting aberrant alternate splice form of the human glucocorticoid receptor (GR $\beta$ ) expression or defects in a GR gene which encodes GR $\beta$ .

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2. The method of Claim 1 wherein GR gene defects are detected by a method selected from the group of assays consisting of: restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP), single-stranded conformation polymorphism (SSCP), polymerase chain reaction (PCR), denaturing gradient gel, allele specific oligonucleotide ligation, and  
10 allele specific hybridization.

3. A method for diagnosing glaucoma, which comprises detecting genetic changes in the GR gene leading to altered GR $\beta$  expression.

Sub 2  
4. A method for diagnosing glaucoma, which comprises detecting genetic changes outside the GR gene which lead to altered GR $\beta$  expression.

5. A method for determining whether an agent is useful for treating glaucoma by determining whether it interacts with GR $\beta$  or alters the expression of GR $\beta$ .

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Sub 3

**We Claim:**

1. A method for diagnosing glaucoma which comprises detecting aberrant GR $\beta$  expression or defects in a GR gene which encodes GR $\beta$ .
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein GR gene defects are detected by a method selected from the group of assays consisting of: restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP), single-stranded conformation polymorphism (SSCP), polymerase chain reaction (PCR), denaturing gradient gel, allele specific oligonucleotide ligation, and allele specific hybridization.
3. A method for diagnosing glaucoma, which comprises detecting genetic changes in the GR gene leading to altered GR $\beta$  expression.
4. A method for diagnosing glaucoma, which comprises detecting genetic changes outside the GR gene which lead to altered GR $\beta$  expression.
5. A method for determining whether an agent is useful for treating glaucoma by determining whether it interacts with GR $\beta$  or alters the expression of GR $\beta$ .